

Johnson, Patrick

From: Maria Person <mperson400@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 7:35 PM
To: District Applications
Subject: Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Application
Attachments: MPFINAL ENGLISH FILLABLE Commission Application FORM.pdf

Hello,

Attached is my application for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Please contact me by email if you have any questions.

Regards,

Maria Person

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application
by email to district.applications@austintexas.gov

by mail or in person to:
Office of the City Auditor
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701

10383

*Application Period:
January 18, 2013
through
February 22, 2013*

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER
AT WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE**

You must submit an electronic application to district.applications@austintexas.gov
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013

DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission duties include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member terms of service include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
 - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
 - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
 - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
 - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

APPLICATION FOR THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Person Maria D.
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1130330392

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

5610 Bull Creek Road Austin TX 78756
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-471-3659

Contact Email Address: mperson400@yahoo.com

Spouse's Name: Iyer Vishwanath R.
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-22P02:24 RCVD

**APPLICATION FOR THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

2013

Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Conflicts of Interest

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
In the last City Election did you or your spouse:	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Personal Background Information

- **Ethnicity:** White and Asian
- **Race:** European and Chinese
- **Gender:** ☐ Male ☒ Female
- **Age: (Please check your response)**
☐ 18 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☒ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☐ 65+
- **Education level: (Please check any that apply)**
☐ High School Diploma or GED
☐ Some College (major _____)
☐ Associate's Degree (major _____)
☐ Bachelor's Degree (major _____)
☒ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject Ph.D. chemistry)

Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

The process of redistricting will require dividing the City, using geographical, social and political markers. I have a Ph.D. in physical chemistry and my profession is using analytical techniques to solve biological and biomedical questions. My background in science provides decades of experience in designing and conducting experiments that require setting up comparable conditions for multiple samples and doing replicates. I search the literature for relevant information on the topic. Data has to be partitioned into appropriate bins and controls are essential for ascertaining the truth of a hypothesis. I work routinely with numbers, values and intensities, to find patterns and understand the meaning of these patterns in the context of a specific question. The information is shared with other scientists, so I have to effectively communicate the methods used publicly and describe the meaning of the results to those outside my specialty. These analytical skills enable me to look at the redistricting process as an analytical problem, dividing the population into 10 districts that reflect a balance of multiple parameters. By using the scientific method, I can restrain the tendency to gerrymander, to create district boundaries that protect limited interests at the expense of the general interest. As a scientist, I am most interested in getting at the truth, even when it contradicts my initial hypothesis. I look carefully at the data and find the story that emerges. For the redistricting process, I intend to research a variety of sources and look carefully at the data relating to multiple demographic measures and listen to all parties, while noting the interests behind the voices. After careful consideration of all relevant data and with respect to the mandate of the commission, I will will work with other commissioners to set fair boundaries using a transparent process.

Please describe your ability to be impartial.

As a scientist, it is essential to be impartial when planning, conducting and analyzing the results of an experiment. It is important to not be attached to the outcome of the experiment, especially when the results do not conform to your hypothesis. Having an open mind allows new insights to emerge. This discipline will translate well to the process of redistricting. I am committed to a redistricting process that is transparent and designed to best reflect the natural boundaries of the city of Austin-including geographic, political, and cultural boundaries.

My political impartiality can be observed in my participation in Democratic and Republican primary elections. I have contacted members of the state redistricting commission and state representatives to encourage state redistricting on a nonpartisan, rational basis. My proposal was to use the existing state law that minimizes the number of counties for any state representative district and extend that rule to US congressional districts and school board districts. I oppose gerrymandering to favor either party or incumbents, and favor using multiple metrics that best represent the citizens. I have no vested interest in drawing specific boundaries, nor agenda relating to favoring a particular group that could influence my actions on the commission. My work does not engage the City of Austin, so there will be no professional advancement that could result from drawing specific boundaries and thus no temptation to gerrymander.

Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

In order to redistrict fairly, multiple metrics will need to be analyzed. Relevant geographical features include natural features such as rivers and man-made barriers such as roads and highways, that serve as community boundaries. The Colorado River, Mopac, I-35 are examples of major features. Bioregions are defined by watersheds and ecological zones such as Blackland Prairie and Edwards Plateau. Austin has many neighborhoods, such as Allandale, Brentwood, Steiner Ranch that foster group identity and are served by neighborhood associations. Community units include school boundaries, local churches, and local shopping hubs such as grocery stores that serve primarily a local population. Racial and ethnic segregation in Austin's past continues to influence current demographics with East Austin having higher black and Hispanic populations, though recent decades have seen trends towards diverse neighborhoods. Economic diversity and segregation can be seen in differences in household income in neighborhoods across Austin. Age distribution is also uneven throughout the city, with student populations near the University and other student housing areas. Commonalities exist across the neighborhoods, but other interests are local, such as citizens needing Spanish language services or areas where crime rates are higher. Lower income residents are less likely to be represented in decision making bodies such as the commission or to enjoy direct access to the decision makers, so it is important that an impartial process provide districts that empower all citizens, including traditionally disenfranchised communities.

Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

My interest in nonpartisan redistricting has led me to contact state representatives to support rational, demographic based congressional and school board districts. I hope to use experience on the commission to help devise general principles for fair district boundary drawing that can be proposed for statewide, even national, adoption. In the era of highly partisan politics, I am committed to fair, democratic processes and infrastructure. I was motivated to apply by the dearth of female and minority applicants, so I am committed to represent other workers and mothers who are busy keeping the city and its communities vibrant.

DISCLAIMER

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

Maria D. Person

Signature of Applicant

2/21/13

Date

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

GLOSSARY

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
 - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
 - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
 - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
 - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
 - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.

